



As a steward of our nation's coastal and marine environments, NOAA addresses immediate and long-term environmental threats through its Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R). Scientists are on call around-the-clock to provide the U.S. Coast Guard and other emergency responders with critical information to help minimize environmental damage caused by oil and hazardous chemical spills. Environmental experts assess ecosystems compromised by historic or ongoing contamination and work with other organizations to conduct remediation, restoration, and monitoring of critical natural resources.

Protecting and Restoring Alaska's Coastal and Marine Areas

NOAA trust resources in Alaska include nearly 34,000 miles of tidal shoreline, more than in all of the contiguous United States. Alaska has the most valuable commercial fishery in the U.S., with over 90% of all U.S. salmon landings. However, for the past 25 years, the Aleutian Islands alone have averaged nearly one oil spill of 1,000 gallons or more per year. The state map on the reverse page shows key response and restoration activities in the past year.

Emergency Response

On December 4, 2006, the *Sea Honesty* (left), a 600-foot freighter, lost power in stormy seas approximately 100 miles north of Adak Island in the Aleutians. NOAA provided scientific assistance, including weather and trajectory information, to assist in response decisions and to minimize damage if any oil was



released into the environment. The U.S. Coast Guard towed the vessel to safe refuge at Unalaska Island. No oil was released to the environment.

Assessment and Restoration

Metlakatla, located in the Annette Islands Reserve in southeast Alaska, is near several military facilities that operated during and following World War II. The community was concerned that former military buildings, fuel storage tanks, and landfills were contaminating beaches. As a result, the local population stopped fishing close to shore for fear of consuming unhealthy fish and shellfish. NOAA and other federal agencies have worked with the Metlakatla Indian community to assess seafood safety and clean up contaminated sites.



Annette Islands crab

Marine Debris

NOAA conducted marine debris surveys along Unalaska Island and established cleanup priorities based on the amount and type of marine debris found and the trust resources threatened by the debris. Over 13,030 pounds of debris, mainly derelict fishing gear, was collected during the four days of cleanup.

Research

NOAA collaborates with other federal, state, and local programs to develop innovative approaches to protecting marine and estuarine environments through research and synthesis of information. The Coastal Response Research Center (CRRCC) brings together the resources of a research-oriented university and the field expertise of OR&R to conduct and oversee basic and applied research, conduct outreach, and encourage strategic partnerships in spill response, assessment, and restoration.



NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration—Protecting our Coastal Environment

**For further information about NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration,
please call (301) 713-2989 or visit our Web site at
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